

HOUSE No. 1405

By Mr. Koutoujian of Waltham, petition of Peter J. Koutoujian relative to the penalties for introducing non-native fish, including “snakefish”, to inland waters of the Commonwealth. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO SNAKEFISH.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 2. Chapter 131 of the General Laws is hereby amended
2 by inserting after section 5C the following section:—

3 Section 5D. Any individual that introduces any non-native
4 species of fish, specifically “snakefish”, to any inland waters or
5 shared waters with bordering states around Massachusetts without
6 the permission from the Department of Environmental Protection,
7 Department of Agriculture, and Department of Public Health shall
8 be fined not less than \$100,000 and not less than 6 months in
9 prison.

10 As used in this section, the following words, shall, unless the
11 context clearly requires otherwise, have the following mean-
12 ings:—

13 “Inland waters”, all waters within the jurisdiction of the com-
14 monwealth other than coastal waters.

15 “Individual”, a person, partnership, corporation, trust, organiza-
16 tion, or other legal entity.